

Year 4 Assessment: Mastering the Playscript

Learning objective: To identify, analyse, and apply the structural features of a playscript, including stage directions, character names, and dialogue.

Read the provided script extract carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure your handwriting is clear and you use full sentences for extended responses.

[SCENE START]

Setting: A dusty, sunlit attic filled with ancient trunks and forgotten maps.

Characters:

NOVA (an owl with a magnifying glass)

PIP (a caterpillar with a tiny notebook)

(NOVA is perched on a wooden chest, peering through her magnifying glass. PIP crawls slowly across a map.)

NOVA: (Excitedly) Pip, look at this! I have discovered a hidden coastline on this map. It has been tucked away for centuries!

PIP: (Stretching his segments) That is marvellous, Nova. Does it show the way to the Great Library of Leaves?

NOVA: (Nodding) It certainly does! We must pack our supplies. Do you have the compass?

PIP: (Checking his bag) I have the compass, some dried snacks, and my favourite fountain pen. We are ready for an adventure.

[SCENE END]

Word bank: stage directions · dialogue · scene heading · character list · parentheses · expression · action · setting

1. Identify two structural features of a playscript that distinguish it from a storybook narrative. (2 marks)

2. Look at the phrase '(Stretching his segments)'. What is this component called in a playscript, and what is its specific purpose? (2 marks)

3. Why does the playwright use capital letters for the names of NOVA and PIP before they speak? (1 mark)

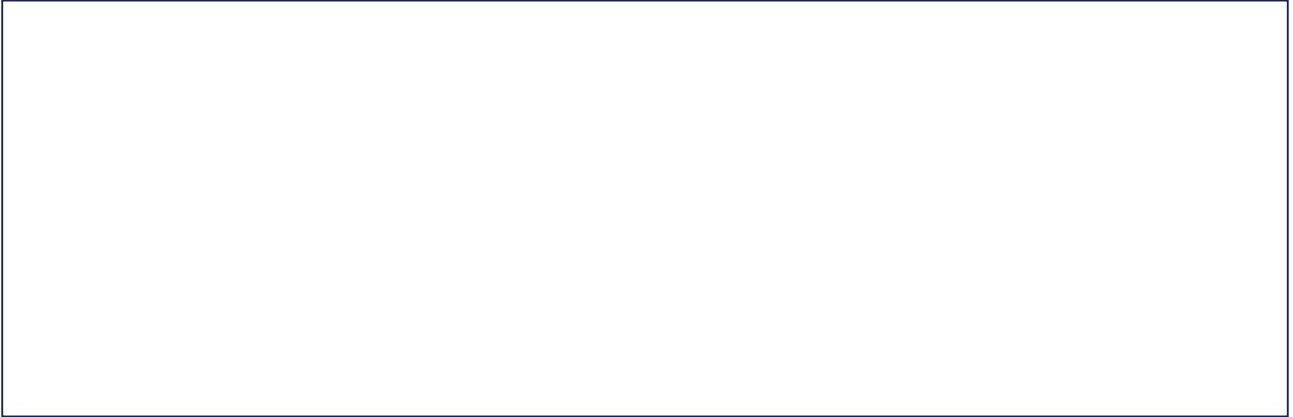
4. Explain why the author included the 'Setting' description at the beginning of the scene. How does this help the actors and the audience? (3 marks)

5. Compare the role of the dialogue in this script to the role of the stage directions. Why are both essential for a successful performance? (4 marks)

6. Justify why a writer might choose to write a story as a playscript rather than a standard narrative prose chapter. Provide two reasons. (4 marks)

7. Creative Writing Task: Write a short scene (approximately 60-80 words) where Max the monkey and Kit the fox discuss how to spend £10.00 on a new invention. Include at least two stage directions and appropriate dialogue. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a theatre stage layout, labelling where you would place Nova and Pip based on the passage provided.



Extension challenge: Imagine a third character enters the attic. Write a paragraph explaining how the mood of the scene might shift and how you would change the stage directions to reflect this new interaction.

Total: /25